

Chapter 9 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How mass participation became the hallmark of the American political system.
2. The growing tension between nationalism and states' rights.
3. The rise of the Whig party as an alternative to Andrew Jackson and the Democrats.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. Andrew Jackson's philosophy of government and his impact on the office of the presidency.
2. The debate among historians about the meaning of "Jacksonian Democracy," and Andrew Jackson's relationship to it.
3. The nullification theory of John C. Calhoun and President Jackson's reaction to the attempt to put nullification into action.
4. The supplanting of John C. Calhoun by Martin Van Buren as successor to Jackson and the significance of the change.
5. The reasons for the Jacksonian war on the Bank of the United States, and the effects of Jackson's veto on the powers of the president and on the American financial system.
6. The causes of the Panic of 1837 and the effect of the panic on the presidency of Van Buren.
7. The differences in party philosophy between the Democrats and the Whigs, the reasons for the Whig victory in 1840, and the effect of the election on political campaigning.
8. The negotiations that led to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty and the importance of the treaty in Anglo-American relations.
9. The reasons John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster were never able to reach their goal, the White House.

Chapter 9

Assignment #1

Textbook: pg. 233 to top of pg. 242.

Questions:

1. What were the general characteristics of "Jacksonian Democracy" [its philosophy, practice, etc.]?
2. How did the spoils system fit into Jackson's "democratic" plans? What other means did he use to bring more people into the political process?
3. What role did social rank and occupation play in the growing democratization of American politics? What was the reaction in New York and Rhode Island to these democratic trends?
4. What groups were excluded from this widening of political opportunity? Why?
5. What was the effect of this growth of democracy? How did it change, or not change, the American political system?
6. How have historians differed over the nature of Jacksonian Democracy?
7. Explain how these different opinions reflect divisions over what historians feel was the role Andrew Jackson played in the era named for him.
8. Why did South Carolinians refer to the Tariff of 1828 as the "Tariff of Abomination?"
9. What was John C. Calhoun's theory of nullification as set forth in the South Carolina Exposition and Protest?
10. What was the "Kitchen Cabinet?" Who were its members? How did it come into existence?
11. What were the origins of the Calhoun-Jackson split? How did the Eaton Affair contribute to this division?
12. How did the Webster-Hayne debate fit into the controversy between Jackson and Calhoun?
13. What was the major point of disagreement between Webster and Hayne? What arguments were advanced on either side?

Chapter 9 Assignment 2

Textbook: top of pg. 242 - pg. 248.

Questions:

1. What were the whites' attitudes toward Native American tribes? How did they contribute to the decision in favor of their removal westward?
2. What was the program (inherited by Jackson) designed to deal with the Indians who lived east of the Mississippi? What happened when this program was applied to the Cherokee in Georgia?
3. Explain the Supreme Court's decisions regarding the Indian tribes and Jackson's response.
4. How did Jackson's action in the matter of the Cherokee removal correspond to his views on the role of the president and on the issue of states' rights?
5. How were Jackson's views concerning the Indians "little different" from those of most white Americans? What was the meaning of "removal?"
6. What was Jackson's opinion on the Bank of the United States? On what did he base his views? What other factors contributed to his stand?
7. What was Nicholas Biddle's initial attitude toward the Bank's involvement in politics? What caused him to change his mind and what steps did he take to resolve the situation?
8. How did Jackson respond to the efforts to re-charter the Second BUS? What reasons did he give for his action?
9. What effect did the election of 1832 have on Jackson's Bank policy?
10. How did the supporters of the Bank respond to Jackson's action? What did Biddle do? What were the results?
11. How did the Supreme Court under Roger B. Taney differ from the court under John Marshall? What groups profited from Taney's decisions?

Chapter 9

Assignment #3

Textbook: pg. 249 - 256.

Questions:

1. How did the "party philosophy" of the Whigs differ from that of the Democrats?
2. Who were the Whig leaders? How do they reflect the variety of political opinions found in the Whig Party?
3. What was the Whig strategy in the election of 1836? Who was their candidate? Why was he selected?
4. What were the results of the 1836 presidential election?
5. What was the general condition of the American economy in 1836? What factors contributed to that condition?
6. Identify the most pressing problem that Congress and the administration faced between 1835 and 1837. How did they propose to solve it?
7. What was the effect of the government's decision to lend surplus money to state banks? What action did Jackson take to ease that effect? What was the result?
8. What caused the Panic of 1837? What effect did it have on the nation? on the Democratic Party?
9. What programs did Martin Van Buren propose? How did these proposals reflect the balance of power in the Democratic Party?
10. How did the advent of the "penny press" reflect the social, technological, and cultural changes taking place in America during the 1820s and 1830s?
11. How did the "penny press" capture the spirit of the "Age of Jackson?"
12. Why did the Whigs select William Henry Harrison as their presidential candidate in 1840? How did his campaign set a new pattern for presidential contests?
13. What did the selection of John Tyler as Harrison's vice-presidential running mate reveal about the composition of the Whig Party?
14. What was the legislative program that Clay and the leading Whigs hoped to institute under Tyler? On what parts did Tyler agree? disagree?
15. What was the origin of the split between Tyler and Clay? What effect did it have on the administration? on the Whig Party?
16. What were the accomplishments of Whig diplomacy?